

# The Calvin Ball Bulletin

## District Two

June 2014 Edition

## Welcome!

Summer is approaching and schools will soon let out for the summer, but there are still great opportunities for you to engage in during the week and on the weekends! In this edition, you will find informational programs, services and area events happening throughout our District Two community and Howard County. I will be posting updates when available to my FB page. "Like" me to stay informed or register for updates through [NotifyMeHoward](#).

Know of any upcoming events you'd like to see highlighted here? Please email me the details to [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov).

If you are not already signed up to receive this newsletter, email "subscribe" to [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov) and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!

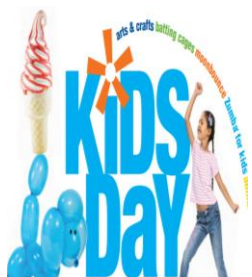


Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

## Inside this issue:

CA's Annual Kids Day	1
HoCo STEM Festival	1
Savage Fest 2014	1
Farmer's Markets	2
Columbia Festival of the Arts	2
First Day of Summer Pool Party	2
Leave Your Mark Project	3
Summer Theater – "Les Miserable"	3
Stream ReLeaf Program	3
2014 Bookmark Contest	3
July 4 <sup>th</sup> Festival & Fireworks	4
National Night Out	4
50+ Expo	4

## Columbia Association's Annual Kids Day!



A fun-filled day designed just for kids, KidsDay is an annual welcome-to-summer event hosted by Columbia Association. This year's event will be held **Saturday, June 7th 10am-1pm** at the **Columbia Sports Park, 5453 Harpers Farm Road, Columbia**. KidsDay is FREE and open to the public. Come learn more about our youth programs, classes, camps and special offers from our various Columbia Association departments. Enjoy a free day of super fun kids activities and come dressed to play! FREE ADMISSION with one free gift per child, while supplies last and a chance to win door prizes sponsored by CA. For more information visit [Columbia Association.org/KidSpace](http://ColumbiaAssociation.org/KidSpace) or call 410-715-3169.

## HoCo STEM Festival!

Howard County's second annual STEM Festival will be held **Sunday, June 8, 2014 1-5pm** at Howard Community College. Join us for a fun, FREE and engaging hands-on learning experience. For more details, visit <http://hocostemfestival.weebly.com/>.



## Savage Fest 2014!

Savage Fest 2014 promises a day of fun for young and old, including: live music from local bands, magic shows with Magic in the Mill, historic reenactments with Joshua Barney, and a historic walking tour through town, pony rides, a petting zoo, and a moon bounce for kids, dance and martial arts demonstrations, raffle items donated by local businesses, over 50 booths featuring crafts, food, and community information. Mark your calendar for this lively community event!

This event will be held **Saturday, June 7, 2015 10am-6:30pm** at the Baldwin Common and Carroll Baldwin Hall in Savage. For more details, visit <http://www.savagemill.com/savage-fest-2014/>

## Farmer's Market in Oakland Mills

Buy fresh and local! Howard County Farmer's Markets in Oakland Mills is now open for the summer. Come out on **Sundays 9am-1pm at the Oakland Mills Village Center, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia** to enjoy products from vendors like The Cosmic Coffee Bean Company, Great Harvest Bread Co., Lewis Orchards, and many more. The Farmer's Market provides residents with a one-stop shop for locally grown, raised, and prepared foods and plants.

For more information or other locations, visit <http://howardcountyfarmersmarkets.com/index.html>.



## Columbia Festival of the Arts!



The 2014 Columbia Festival of the Arts kicks off June 13-15, 2014 with its FREE **Opening Weekend**. This year's theme "Bringing It Home" will feature an outdoor opening weekend, several free art exhibit receptions, a Chalk It Up Contest, and much more!

For a complete line-up, view their online brochure at <http://columbiafestival.org/ColumbiaFestival/#6>.

## The Lyme Epidemic



On **June 10<sup>th</sup> from 7 -8:30pm at St. Johns Lutheran Church, 6004 Waterloo Road, Columbia** there will be an educational presentation to provide insight into Lyme and the other diseases that ticks carry in our area. Howard County is endemic for Lyme and is the second hardest hit county in the state! Don't become some of the millions whose tick -borne illnesses go undetected. Come out to hear Dr. Kathy Spreen, a leading authority on Lyme Disease and author of the *Compendium of Tick-Borne Disease: A Thousand Pearls*, discuss some of the basics of what Lyme is, what to do when a tick attaches, how reliable (or unreliable) the tests are, and how to protect yourself.

Register for this **FREE** event: <http://LymeEpidemic.eventzilla.net> or visit our website at [www.HcLyme.org](http://www.HcLyme.org).

## First Day of Summer Pool Party

Start the summer off with a splash and celebrate the first day of summer on **Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> from 3pm to 5pm** at the Roger Carter Community Center, 3000 Milltowne Drive, Ellicott City. Enjoy fun activities inside the pool, play on the splash pad, take underwater photos and eat some pizza. For ages 6 to 12 years old, all participants must wear proper swim attire. For more information, contact **Montrez Brown at 410-313-2764** or by e-mail at [mjbrown@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mjbrown@howardcountymd.gov).

## Aging in Place Home Repair Funding

Since 2005, Columbia Association and the Howard County Office on Aging have partnered to help older adults age in place, providing financial assistance to qualified CA homeowners who cannot otherwise pay for accessibility or repair expenses for their homes. For more information, please see the full news release on CA's website, <http://bit.ly/1iiiVAp>

## Columbia Youth & Teen Center Celebrates Summer

Hanging out at the Youth and Teen Center (YTC) at The Barn is a fun, safe way for teens and pre-teens to socialize and participate in recreational and educational programs. Columbia and Howard County kids ages 9 to 18 are welcomed year round with after-school, summer time and some weekend activities and programs that are designed to promote self-esteem and to develop life skills.

YTC @ The Barn is a multi-purpose, two-story facility where teens can access a computer lab, watch movies, play Wii or XBOX on a large flat screen TV, or enjoy billiard tables, air hockey, ping pong and various board games in the recreation room. Upstairs features a mini-gym for basketball, volleyball and other games and activities, as well as a snack bar run by the entrepreneurial program.

Check out some of the up-coming events:

- June 9<sup>th</sup> - Basketball Tournament - BOYS II MEN Club End of Year Celebration
- June 10<sup>th</sup> - TOC Meeting 4-5pm - Deadline to sign up for Middle School Takeover Tuesday
- June 12<sup>th</sup> - FGO Club Celebration Dinner
- June 13<sup>th</sup> - Middle School Takeover - Held at Supreme Sports Club 7-11PM
- June 16<sup>th</sup> - Schools Close 3 Hours Early - Operation Snowcone
- June 17<sup>th</sup> - Schools Close 3 Hours - Outside-In Obstacle Course - iPad Tutorial Departing at 3:15pm Sharp, Held at East Columbia Library
- June 18<sup>th</sup> - Schools Close 3 Hours - Kickball at Blandair Regional Park
- June 20<sup>th</sup> - Last Day of School
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> - Summer Hours Begin 2-7PM
- June 24<sup>th</sup> - Swimboree at Talbott Springs Pool
- June 27<sup>th</sup> - Kickball! Friday Night Live 7-10PM Middle & High School Students Only

## Columbia's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday – Share Your Input!

As Columbia begins its preparations to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, Columbia and Howard County residents are invited to share their feedback on what they would like to see integrated into the festivities! Take a brief moment and share your comments [online](#).



## Robinson Nature Center's Leave Your Mark Project!

On **Saturday, June 21 10-11:30am**, residents ages 3 years and up are invited to create original art work for a tile at the Robinson Nature Center which will be installed inside the Center's main building. Children must be accompanied by an adult and all proceeds support Friends of the Nature Center projects, including scholarships for Title 1 school field trips and an outdoor nature play space at the Nature Center. The cost is \$35 for 1 tile or 3 tiles for \$100. For details, visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/robinsonnaturecenter.htm> or call 410-313-0400.

## Howard County Summer Theater Program presents "Les Miserable"



Howard County Summer Theatre proudly announces performances of its 40<sup>th</sup> annual summer musical, "Les Misérables" opening 7pm on **July 2, 2014 at Mt. Hebron High School, 9440 Old Frederick Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. "Les Mis," based on the classic novel of the same name written by Victor Hugo in the 1860s, is the story of Jean Valjean's redemptive journey from life as a convict on a French chain gang to that of a gentleman who is willing to give his life to save others. The music by Claude-Michel Schonberg and the lyrics by Alain Boublil are some of the most familiar and stirring in theatre history.

There have been numerous international and regional tours and recently a movie version, but Howard County Summer Theatre is one of the first community theatres in the country to be granted full rights to this groundbreaking show.

**Additional show dates are July 3, 5, 9-12 at 7:00 p.m. and July 6 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$17, with a discounted price of \$13 for seniors and children under 12.** Tickets can be purchased online beginning on June 5, 2014 at [www.ticketleap.com](http://www.ticketleap.com), at Music and Arts in Chatham Station in Ellicott City, or from a cast member. If available, tickets will also be sold at the door.

## County Initiates Stream ReLeaf Program!

Howard County residents that live within 75 feet of a stream can now apply online to receive free trees and shrubs through Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks Stream ReLeaf program. This program is aimed at improving the water quality and wildlife habitat by creating and enhancing stream buffers – protective strips of trees, shrubs and other vegetation along the stream.

To qualify, homeowners must be able to plant the vegetation on their property within the 75 feet of a stream. Homeowners are responsible for the planting and caring of the trees and shrubs, including, but not limited to, watering and protecting them from wildlife. To apply or for more information, visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/StreamReleaf.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/StreamReleaf.htm) or contact **Megan Mills** at 410-313-6205 or email [MilhMills@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:MilhMills@howardcountymd.gov). The County will assess each property to determine eligibility, planting area and the maximum number of plants which may be ordered.

## 2014 Bookmark Contest

Give your creativity free-rein when you enter Howard County Library System's bookmark contest for children and teens! The contest is open to all children in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade who live or attend school in Howard County. Children who attend home school or who attend a school without grade levels should enter the comparable grade level. Bookmarks judged on originality, design, and reproducibility. Winning bookmarks become the property of Howard County Library System. They will be printed and distributed as HCLS bookmarks, used in other Library related materials, and posted on the HCLS web site.

The 2014 contest runs through **July 19<sup>th</sup>**. [Entry forms](#) and details are available online at [www.hclibrary.org](http://www.hclibrary.org) and at all Howard County Library System branches.



## MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Homeowners!

Howard County Housing is now accepting applications for the Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program for Single Family (MHRP-SF). Applications will be available at the Housing's office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the **Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive** in Columbia.

MHRP-SF is a housing rehabilitation program that preserves and improves single family properties with an emphasis on bringing eligible properties into compliance with applicable building codes and standards. It's designed to address priority home maintenance items, such as: correcting exterior or interior deficiencies; making accessibility modifications; correcting health and safety violations; improving the homes weatherization and energy conservation; and correcting lead-based paint violations. General improvements, such as small home additions, alterations and carpeting, fences and landscaping, and kitchen, bathroom and closet remodeling, may be considered for financing as well, if all priority home maintenance items are in good condition or have been previously renovated. Swimming pools and recreational facilities are considered luxury items and are not eligible for a MHRP-SF loan.

This program also provides HC Housing with the opportunity to assist eligible homeowners in securing low interest loans that cannot exceed 110% of the property's value and with an interest rate of 4.5%. Loan amounts are based upon the owner-occupants ability to repay the loan.

For more information, contact **Kelly Cimino** at 410-313-6318 and select option 4, or e-mail [kcimino@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kcimino@howardcountymd.gov).

## Save the Date for July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival & Fireworks



Save the Date! Join Howard Countians at the annual **July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival & Fireworks** celebration at **Columbia Lakefront, 10275 Wincopin Circle, Columbia**. The event features live entertainment on two stages, with children's entertainment on the second stage. Bring a picnic dinner or purchase food from on-site vendors as you enjoy Independence Day by the lake! Those wishing to place a blanket or sheet may do so beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, July 4; whereas, those wishing to place a tarp on the grass may do so beginning that day at 3:00 p.m. Stay tuned to [www.howardcountymd.gov/july4th.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/july4th.htm) for updates (available after June 1st) and more information or contact the Department of Recreation & Parks at 410-313-4700.

## Save the Date for National Night Out

On **August 5<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 pm** come join family, friends and neighbors for the 31st annual National Night Out, celebrated for the third year at the **North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel**. The evening is designed to heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention, generate support for local anti-crime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The event features a live concert, Howard County Police Department displays and much more. The event is free and for all ages. For more information, call 410-313-0390.

## 50+ Expo

On **October 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4pm**, join the County's Department of Citizen Services 16th annual 50+EXPO at **Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia**. Geared towards adults age 50 and older, caregivers, family members and health care professionals, the EXPO features over exhibitors, life-enriching workshops and healthy aging seminars, a living green fair, great food and all day entertainment. Stay tuned to [www.howardcountyaging.org/50plusexpo](http://www.howardcountyaging.org/50plusexpo) for more information or call 410-313-6410.



## Homeless Gazette!

As an elected official and advocate to end homelessness, I'm thrilled to partner with the Route 1 Day Resource Center to put on the Hope for Homeless 5k. I'd like to share with you the Homeless Gazette which highlights stories and touching information from clients of the Day Center that I hope you find inspiring. I hope you will consider contributing to the Day Center and to their cause in their future. You can find the latest April 2014 edition [here](#) and view the archive editions [here](#). Here is a [list](#) of their needs if you're able to donate.



## Calling All Youth and Teens!

Get involved and be a part of the solution. Have fun and make new friends! Columbia Association's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee is now seeking young individuals to attend monthly meetings and help get involved in their community by planning, organizing and implementing positive programs and activities for their peers.

High School Students (Ages 13-19) and Middle School Students (Ages 11-13) are invited to call **410-992-3726** or email [CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org) to sign-up. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month 6:30-8pm at the Youth & Teen Center & The Barn in the Village of Oakland Mills, 5853 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia.

## Avoid Healthcare Scams!

The Howard County Department of Citizen Services is warning both Medicare recipients and residents who qualify for health coverage through the new health care exchanges of misleading and sometimes illegal offers of help that are cropping up in Howard County. The Department has already received several reports of misleading and illegal conduct related to both Medicare open enrollment and enrollment for health coverage under the federal Affordable Care Act.

The Office on Aging's "Avoiding Medicare Scams and Frauds" fact sheet, available at [www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidmedicarefraud.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidmedicarefraud.htm), provides info on this and other Medicare provisions designed to protect consumers from misleading sales practices. Consumers can also call the County's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) office at **410-313-7392** to report suspicious health insurance offers and/or to receive free and unbiased help in deciding what, if any, supplemental insurance programs are right for them.

In addition, the County's Office of Consumer Affairs recently received an e-mail from an insurance agent offering to help people "obtain affordable health insurance." This e-mail, however, implied that unless consumers sign up for coverage by January 1, 2014 they will be charged a penalty. In fact, penalties will not be assessed until the end of the enrollment period on March 31, 2014. Certified navigators are prohibited from charging for their services and from offering private insurance products while helping clients enroll with an exchange.

The Office of Consumer Affairs' "Avoiding ID Theft and Fraud in the New Health Insurance Marketplace" fact sheet, available at

## Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

**4H Club:** For youth grades 3+. Meets **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month** at The Other Barn **3:30-5pm**. Call **410-992-3726** for more info

**Art Attack:** Creative after-school enrichment program from the Columbia Art Center. Meets **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays**.

Registration/Fees may apply. Call **410-992-3726**.

**Columbia Teen Center** **410-992-3726**

**Howard County Library** [www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22](http://www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22)

**Voices For Change** <http://hcv4c.org/> or email [MMekelburg7@verizon.net](mailto:MMekelburg7@verizon.net)

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

## Make a Difference in a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to HCPSS students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at [aokmentor@gmail.com](mailto:aokmentor@gmail.com) or call **410-730-6030**.

## "Your Local Career Connection" Helps in Your Search For Employment!

Howard County's Office of Workforce Development is here for you! The center is geared towards meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century labor market. They provide companies and individuals ranging from professional, technical and managerial to entry level. It offers residents a variety of tools to aid in a job search. The full service center is equipped with computers, fax machines, telephones, internet access and copiers – all to assist you with your employment search. Customized recruitment events are held for businesses and space is available to use for interviewing. For more details, click [here](#) or call **410-290-2620**. The calendar of events is [online](#).

## Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

**TAX CREDITS:** The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Livable Home Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

## Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.

## Health Care Options For You or Your Family!



The "Door to HealthCare" provides for the consolidation of applications and application processes for the numerous health programs available for those who are under/uninsured. Individuals sit down with a counselor or work alone at a kiosk to enter personal data (including: family make-up, income, etc.) which will determine the programs for which you and/or family members are eligible. The information will quickly be transferred electronically into the proper application and the process is complete. Services provided include: MCHP, MA, PAC and the Healthy Howard Health Plan.

"The Door to HealthCare" is located to the rear of 7178 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia, MD. For further information, call 410-988-3737 or visit <http://www.healthyhowardmd.org/door-healthcare>.

## Medicare Patients – Looking for a Local Doctor!

The Medicare.gov site is the place to find information about Medicare. The webpage provides detailed information about the basics of Medicare, resources, preventative health care and much more. If you're looking for a local doctor who accepts Medicare, click [here](#). Fill in your zip code and any preferences you might have and you will instantly be given a list of providers in your area! For more info, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

## Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ride launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email [volunteer@neighborride.org](mailto:volunteer@neighborride.org) for more information.

## Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- Experiencing an Emergency? Dial 9-1-1
- Want to report an incident, non-emergency? Call 410-313-2200
- Need to report drug activity? Call 410-290-3784 or email [ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov)
- Want to make an anonymous tip (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email [GangTips@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:GangTips@howardcountymd.gov)
- Want to report gun crimes? Call 410-313-7867 or email [CToler@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CToler@howardcountymd.gov).
- Do you need Victim Assistance? Call 410-313-3712 or email [KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov)
- Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey? Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- Want to start a Neighborhood Watch? Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- Looking to prevent Auto Theft? Helpful tips available at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=6442451452>
- Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.? Call 410-313-2780, email [animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov) or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- Are speeders in your neighborhood? Consider the SMART Program initiative. Info available at [www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd\\_smartprogram.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_smartprogram.htm)
- Interested in a Police Ride-Along? Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- Need a HCPD Spanish line? Call 410-313-7807.
- Interested in volunteering with the HCPD? Call 410-313-2255
- Interesting in HCPD Recruitment? Call 410-313-4273.

## In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland which empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at **6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044**. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at [www.grassrootscrisis.org](http://www.grassrootscrisis.org). The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

## "Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register [online](#) or call **1-800-745-RIDE (7433)**.



## Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community which is designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at **410-313-2200**.

## Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County, click [here](#). For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call **1-800-272-3900** or visit [www.alz.org/maryland](http://www.alz.org/maryland).

## Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, **5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E** in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are **9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday**. Other times may be considered. For more information, call **410-992-1923 x 14**.

## Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, click [here](#) or call **410-313-6444**. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call **410-313-7678** or go [online](#).

## Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Online-Form-to-Report-Fraud-Waste-and-Abuse>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email [hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov) or call **410-313-2005**.

## View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. A calendar of upcoming meetings can be found [online](#).

## I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email to [Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) or fax **410-313-3297**.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**.

Dr. Calvin Ball  
Howard County Council  
[District 2](#)  
[Email Me](#)  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

*"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved"*

**~ Mattie Stepanek**